

**REMARKS**

As a housekeeping matter, it is believed that the Examiner in the Office Action Summary meant to indicate that claims 1-3 are rejected, rather than indicating that they are allowed.

The invention relates to a method for producing a color filter for an image sensor.

In the present Amendment, the subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1, and claim 7 has been canceled. Thus, claim 1 now recites that the alkali soluble resin in the photo-curable composition employed in the method contains a molecular chain having a polymerizable double bond in the molecule.

Claims 4-6 and 8-9 are amended to depend from claim 1, and thus to be single rather than multiple dependent.

No new matter is added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-9 will be pending.

In Paragraph No. 1 of the Action, claims 4-9 are objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Claims 4-6 and 8-9 have been amended to overcome the objection. For claim 7, the objection is moot, since it has been canceled.

Withdrawal of the objection and treatment of claims 4-6 and 8-9 on the merits is respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 2003-295432 in view of JP 2002-107534.

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because JP '432 and JP '534 do not disclose or render obvious the method for producing a color filter for an image sensor of the present invention.

Although the Examiner indicates that JP '534 meets the limitations of the presently claimed irradiating step, see page 3 of the Action, Applicants submit that JP '534 does not meet the recitations of the presently claimed irradiating step. The Examiner's position is that JP '534 meets the requirements of the presently claimed irradiating step because the lower end of Applicants' temperature range for "heating" of the present invention is 20°C (i.e., room temperature). However, JP '534 does not disclose the concept of performing an exposure to ultraviolet light with heating at the same time. Present claim 1, in contrast, requires that the ultraviolet irradiation step be carried out "while heating at a temperature of 20°C to 50°C."

Further, claim 1 as amended requires that the alkali soluble resin contain a molecular chain having a polymerizable double bond in the molecule. As illustrated in the working Examples in the present specification, post-curing was particularly effective in the systems where the alkali soluble resin had a polymerizable double bond. See Examples 4-8 and paragraph [0128] of the specification at pages 65-66. As stated there, post-curing was effective in the systems using an alkali soluble resin not having a double bond (Examples 1-3), but was particularly effective in the systems where the alkali soluble resin had a polymerizable double bond (Examples 4-8). The superior results obtained with systems where the alkali soluble resin has a polymerizable double bond would not have been expected from the teachings of either JP '432 or JP '534.

Thus, Applicants submit that JP '432 and JP '534 do not teach the concept of exposure to ultraviolet light with heating at the same time and the presently recited range of heating temperature of 20°C to 50°C. JP '534 appears to be silent concerning the use of heating while exposing to ultraviolet rays. Further, Applicants believe it is unexpected from the art that post-curing using an alkali soluble resin containing a molecular chain having a polymerizable double

bond in the molecule is more effective and provides superior results, as seen with the method of the present invention.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 1-3 based on JP '432 in view of JP '534.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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